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 ACTION AF-01

RELEASED IN PART  
 B6

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	EXIM-01	E-01
	FRB-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	ITC-01
	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/047W
							-----311C3E 171345Z /38

R 171225Z MAR 94  
 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5986  
 INFO USDAO YAOUNDE  
 USDAO PARIS  
 DIA WASHDC//CH-4//  
 SECDEF WASHDC  
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4-SAA//  
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS  
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPT FOR AF/C, AF/RA, IO/PHO

BUJUMBURA FOR RSO

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 E.O. 12356:OADR:DECL.  
 TAGS: PINS, PINR, MOPS, PREL, EINV, ECON, RW  
 SUBJECT: SORWATHE SHUT DOWN UNLESS SECURITY GUARANTEED

REF: A) KIGALI 1148 B) KIGALI 1081 AND C) KIGALI 1020

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN LIGHT OF THE KILLINGS REPORTED IN REFTEL (A),  
 [REDACTED] OF THE AMERICAN OWNED  
 TEA FACTORY - SORWATHE, TOLD ECONOFF THAT ON FRIDAY,

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MARCH 18 THE FACTORY WOULD CLOSE DOWN UNTIL THE SECURITY SITUATION NEAR CYAHOHA IMPROVED. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH [REDACTED] LATE

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARCH 16, BOTH [REDACTED] RECOGNIZED THAT SHUTTING DOWN SORWATHE WOULD CAUSE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP FOR LOCAL AREA TEA GROWERS, BUT DECIDED THAT THE COMPANY COULD NOT CONTINUE OPERATIONS IF SECURITY FOR THE STAFF WAS NOT GUARANTEED.

3. [REDACTED] WOULD REMAIN OPEN ONLY IF BOTH THE RPF AND RWANDAN MILITARY GUARANTEED THE SECURITY OF SORWATHE STAFF. [REDACTED] ASKED THAT THE AMBASSADOR RELAY THIS MESSAGE TO THE RPF. [REDACTED] WOULD BE INFORMING THE GOR THROUGH OCIR-THE, THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT'S OFFICE OF TEA.

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4. EYEWITNESSES TO THE KILLINGS TOLD RADIO RWANDA REPORTERS THE KILLERS WERE DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, BUT THEY WERE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM.

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PRO-HUTU RADIO RTLM BROADCASTS CLAIM THAT THE KILLERS BELONG TO THE RPF.

5. COMMENT. ONE POSSIBLE OBJECTIVE FOR THE MURDERS COULD HAVE BEEN TO CLOSE THE FACTORY DOWN. SUCH A THEORY WOULD LEND SUPPORT TO THOSE ALLEGING RPF RESPONSIBILITY. TEA REVENUES HAVE BEEN USED AS A SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR GOVERNMENT ARMS PURCHASES.  
END COMMENT. RAWSON

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